Action plan for increasing capacity of cold storages in H.P.

1336. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made out any action plan to increase the capacity of existing cold storages in Himachal Pradesh, where the best quality of apples are being produced, to increase the sources of income in rural areas; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the funds allocated for the purpose during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) With a view to augment availability of Cold Storage infrastructure for storage of perishable produce, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries, under its Tenth Plan Scheme provides financial assistance for cold storages for non-horticulture produce, specific types of specialized cold storages with controlled Atmosphere/Modified Atmosphere facility, and where the cold storage is an integral part of the processing unit or of the common facilities in food park. The assistance (in form of grant-in-aid) is admissible @ 25% of the cost of Plant & Machinery and technical civil works in general areas and @ 33.33% in difficult areas (including Himachal Pradesh), subject to a maximum of Rs. 75.00 lakhs. Assistance is considered based on complete and viable project proposals duly appraised by Banks/Financial Institutions and recommended by the respective State Nodal Agencies. The Ministry does not set up projects on its own. The outlay for the scheme of Infrastructure Development, including for Cold Storages during the current financial year (2006-2007) is Rs. 12.40 crores. Since the schemes of the Ministry are project specific, State-wise allocations are not made. During Tenth Plan, the Ministry has approved 25 projects involving assistance of Rs. 6.14 crores in Himachal Pradesh for setting up of Food Processing Industries. However, during this period assistance for Cold Storages in the State could not be considered due to want of complete project proposals.

Food/fruits testing laboratories in Himachal Pradesh

1337. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state: